

The Daily Astorian

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FIRST PRINCIPLES.

The cry against land monopoly is one of the many plaints heard in the land to-day. Our laws should be such as to render "corners" in the soil impossible, but since they are not we don't exactly see why so much bad feeling should be expressed toward the man or men who take advantage of them. Human nature, though plainly manifested in most of its phases, is in many others mysterious and past finding out. Of the 1,900,000 people in New York City, only 61,000 own real estate, of which number it is safe to say that not more than one in ten of the adults could be either taxed or hired to go into the country as a permanent change. There are in all towns and cities large numbers of men who are able, or might be in a very short time if so disposed, to possess themselves of a few acres of government land, on which they could begin in a primitive but sure way to live, live free and independent lives away from temptation and the allurements of city vices.

Felling trees, grubbing out stumps, putting up stone fences, building and living in log cabins or board shanties, has been done by men of more brains than characterize the masses to-day who refuse to do such work mainly on the ground that there are a few rich men in the country not forced to set the example.

But it is evident that the city and town have attractions that counteract the dictates of judgment, even though the inclination to cut loose from them may not be wanting. Men who will struggle with all the disadvantages that beset those of no trade, profession, or other resources than the hands, in a city, certainly come in frequent conflict with a feeling strong within them, that they are out of their sphere, and squandering the energies that were designed to be a source of income and independence that the cultivation of the soil is sure to be to any man of will and determination to rise above a mere vegetative existence to one of rewarding activity, usefulness, and the power to do good in the world. Alas! time is required for such competence as comes from beginning on first principles; and the steady, working, waiting, economy and patience necessary to the desired result, are what but a precious few Americans of to-day are either willing to do, possess, or know how to exercise.

Reserved Power a Necessity.

It is not wise to work constantly up to the highest rate of which we are capable. If the engineer of the railroad were to keep the speed of his train up to the highest rate he could attain with his engine, it would soon be used up. If a horse is driven at the top of his speed for any length of time, he is ruined. It is well to try the power occasionally of a horse or engine by putting on all the motion they will bear, but not continuously. All machinists construct their machines so that there will be a reserve force. If the power required is four-horse, then they make a six-horse power. In this case it works easily and lasts long. A man who has strength enough to do twelve honest hours of labor in twenty-four, and no more, should do but nine or ten hours' work.

The reserve power keeps the body in repair. It rounds out the frame to full proportions. It keeps the mind cheerful, hopeful, happy. The person with no reserve force is always incapable of taking on any more responsibility than he already has. A little exertion puts him out of breath. He cannot increase his work for an hour without danger of explosion. Such are generally pale, dyspeptic, bloodless, nervous, irritable, despondent, gloomy. We all pity them. The great source of power in the individual is the blood. It runs the machinery of life, and upon it depends our health and strength.

A mill on a stream where water is scanty can be worked but a portion of the time. So a man with little good blood can do but little work. The reserve power must be stored up in this field. When the reserve power of an individual runs low, it is an indication that a change is necessary, and that it is best to stop extending and go to accumulating, just as the miller does when water gets low in the pond. Such a course would save many a person from physical bankruptcy.

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